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MIDDLE EAST – AFRICA – SOUTH ASIA

This publication is prepared for regional specialists in the Washington community by the Middle East - Africa Division, Office of Current Intelligence, with occasional contributions from other offices within the Directorate of Intelligence. Comments and queries are welcome. They should be directed to the authors of the individual articles.

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South Yemen

Assassination Attempt

South Yemen was probably behind the unsuccessful attempt to assassinate Muhammad Ali Haytham, former Adeni prime minister, in Cairo on Sunday night. Egyptian authorities have arrested two men for the shooting. [redacted] 25X1C

25X1C [redacted]

Haytham was an early member of South Yemen's ruling National Front party and its general command. Appointed prime minister in June 1969, he left office in mid-1971 after clashing with President Salim Rubayi Ali over Ali's sponsorship of "peasant uprisings" in which landless laborers seized land, boat crews seized fishing craft and houses were confiscated by poor peasants. Haytham was packed off to Moscow from August 1971 until August 1973, where he reportedly attended a Communist Party school. Refusing to return to Aden, he was given political asylum in Cairo.

During the past year, Haytham- [redacted] 25X6

25X6 [redacted]

created an exile organization called the Yemen Unity front, (YUF) which he hoped would take over various

25X6 [redacted] exile paramilitary organizations in Saudi Arabia and North Yemen. Haytham has talked of launching a political and military effort against Aden to oust Ali and National Front Secretary General Abd-al-Fattah Ismail. In May, Haytham visited Oman where he reportedly obtained Sultan Qabus promise of political and financial support for a YUF-led exile army.

Aden has in the past employed terrorist teams to carry out several political murders. In May 1973, Muhammad Ali Uthman, a member of North Yemen's Republican Council and strong opponent of Aden's National Front regime was assassinated in Taiz. Former North Yemeni foreign minister Muhammad Ahmad Numan was assassinated in Beirut in June 1974.

(Continued)

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Haytham may have been a South Yemeni target because of his YUF activities. One condition the Saudis reportedly have insisted on in their talks with South Yemeni officials to resolve political differences is South Yemen's agreement to allow exiles, like Haytham, to return to Aden and participate in politics. South Yemeni President Ali and party leader Ismail may have believed that Haytham has a following in the National Front and could pose a danger to their own position. (SECRET NOFORN/ORCON/NOCONTRACT)

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